

thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for introducing this resolution and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the important contributions these women have made and continue to make across the country.

NATIONAL JOB CORPS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 163, which expresses support for the designation of September 23, 2009 as National Job Corps Day. The Job Corps is an essential program that provides vocational training for thousands of young Americans each year, helping to integrate them into the U.S. workforce.

The Job Corps was created under the Department of Labor in 1964 as a part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. The Job Corps was modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which was established during the Great Depression in an effort to house, train, and find employment for young people. Like the CCC before it, Job Corps seeks not only to provide vocational training but also to teach life skills and build character in participants. The Job Corps helps to foster professionalism by maintaining a strict zero-tolerance policy with regards to criminal activity for admitted participants as well as a code of conduct that includes rules for appearance.

I am proud of the four Job Corps campuses in my home state of Texas. Job Corps has a regional headquarters in Dallas, Texas and operates campuses in the North, Central, South, and West regions of Texas. The Gary Job Corps center in San Marcos, Texas was inaugurated in 1964 by President Johnson. Today, the Gary campus has the largest GED program in the state of Texas. The Job Corps has provided thousands of Texans with the education and training they need to be successful at work and in life.

I also want to mention the job fairs that I have hosted in my district of Houston, TX to help counter rising unemployment, designed to help all in need, including the young people that Job Corps assists. At the job fair in Houston last weekend, over 50 companies and government agencies attended and held on-site interviews. These events were incredible successes and embodied the spirit of the Job Corps program.

Over its 45 year history, the Job Corps has helped nearly 3 million young people join the American workforce. The Job Corps operates 123 campuses across the United States, assisting nearly 60,000 students each year. The Job Corps is a refuge for high school dropouts, providing academic remediation and empowering them to join the workforce through career preparation and development. For that reason, the Job Corps has been called the largest and most successful high school dropout recovery program in the U.S.

The success of the Job Corps program in changing the lives of its participants is evident in the following statistics. After eight months in the Job Corps program, the average participant will have a high school diploma and an improved literacy level. Seventy-five percent of

Job Corps graduates will secure employment or enter into military service.

The benefits of the Job Corps go beyond the impact on the lives of the youth who participate in the program. The Job Corps enhances the workforce in communities across the country by partnering with labor organizations and employers to develop specifically requested skills. These partnerships include internships and other hands-on training experiences that enhance the youth participants' employability. The benefits of Job Corps also extend to the community where youths perform millions of hours of community service, instilling the value of giving-back to the community.

Finally, it is important that we note that National Job Corps Day also honors the 15,000 staff members who work hard to ensure that the participants get the best training possible. Without the hard work of these men and women, Job Corps would not have been able to help millions of young people enter the workforce and become productive citizens.

EXPRESSING A NATION'S APPRECIATION FOR THE HEROIC STAFF OF HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER-

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, every weekday morning, millions of parents send our children off to school, entrusting their care to the teachers, administrators and other professionals who do their best to make school as safe and supportive an environment as possible. Yet we are reminded, far too often, that no one's safety is guaranteed if a disturbed person or group is intent on committing an act of violence.

On August 24th, a former student with his mind set on mayhem entered the campus of San Mateo California's Hillsdale High School with enough weapons and explosive devices to kill or injure hundreds. The remarkable fact that no one was seriously hurt is due entirely to the heroic efforts of the staff who, according to Principal Jeffrey Gilbert, "More ran toward the explosion than away from it."

Student services aide Jana Torres, a district employee since 2001 and known for her strong relationship with students, saw the attacker attempting to start a chainsaw and yelled at him to stop. Instead, he lit a pipe bomb and hurled it at her. Disregarding her own safety, Ms. Torres called for help and jumped over the device to pursue the attacker as the pipe bomb detonated behind her.

Just as a second bomb went off, 12-year teaching veteran Kennet Santana, a favorite among students for his innate ability to inspire and motivate young people, tackled the running assailant before he could ignite more of the home-made bombs he had strapped to his vest.

Coming to Kennet's aid were Principal Gilbert, a former Hillsdale teacher known for his easy-going and patient manner, and counselor Edgardo Canda, another former teacher who has found his calling as a counselor, able to relate to students on many levels. They helped subdue and hold the attacker until police arrived.

Madam Speaker, at that point in time, none of these heroes knew if—or how many—others were part of this plot or if the bombs strapped to the desperate young man's vest were about to detonate.

Ms. Torres, Mr. Santana, Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Canda have rightly and appropriately been singled out by their community. They, along with the brave officers of the San Mateo Police Department, in particular the first responders—Captain Kevin Raffaelli and Officers Rick Apecechea, Jeff Dellings and Roberto Gonzalez—deserve our gratitude for their selfless acts of heroism.

So, too, does the entire staff at Hillsdale High School that morning. As Principal Gilbert said, "We're getting a lot of the credit but there were a lot of teachers who basically stood their ground and said we're going to do whatever it takes to protect our kids."

Madam Speaker, our entire nation is eternally grateful for the dedication of these and so many other public education professionals who, every day at schools across this country, take on the awesome responsibility of doing "whatever it takes" to educate, prepare, and protect our children.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING RACHELLE WHITMAN FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Rachelle Whitman showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Rachelle Whitman was a supportive coach; and

Whereas, Rachelle Whitman always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Rachelle Whitman on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

HONORING DIANE REHM

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of one of our nation's great radio talk show hosts, Diane Rehm. Diane is celebrating her 30th anniversary at WAMU 88.5 FM, where she hosts The Diane Rehm Show. The show is distributed nationally and internationally by NPR and NPR Worldwide and is estimated to have a U.S. audience of over two million listeners. In 2007 and 2008, the show was the only live call-in talk show to be named among the top ten most powerful programs in public radio.